

tools they need to do what they do best: feed America.

#### THE PAST AND FUTURE OF WOMEN'S HISTORY

(Ms. CLARKE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today at a moment when, tragically, women's rights in the United States have been greatly diminished since last year's Women's History Month was commemorated.

While we will continue our month-long celebration in observance of women's history, it is just as important for us to focus on the future that women will face as it is for us to reflect on the achievements of the past.

Access to abortion is no longer a constitutional right. Full stop.

Access to lifesaving abortion medication, even in States where abortion is legally protected is under threat.

Teenage girls and young women are facing unprecedented rates of trauma, violence, suicide, and maternal mortality.

We still have not achieved equal work for equal pay. Yet, we continue our celebration this month all the same. That is in part what makes this month so special.

From Harriet Tubman liberating the enslaved to Vice President HARRIS inspiring women and girls across the Nation that they too can dream with ambition, lead with conviction, and see themselves in a way that others may not, we are making progress and our work is not yet finished.

In closing, Happy Women's History Month.

#### HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT THREATENED TAKEOVER

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, we can honor Women's History Month in many different ways, and I rise today to acknowledge women in all walks of life and around the world.

I particularly want to mention a crisis that involves women in my Congressional District.

Can you imagine the State of Texas attempting to take over the largest school district in our State, and the seventh or eighth largest school district, the Houston Independent School District.

Why women? Because parents, many of them single household, women. Teachers, women. Support staff, women. Cafeteria workers, women—women who love the children and wonder why a State would eliminate the school board—which by the way, has the largest number of women as school board members on the Houston Independent School Board District.

There is no definable reason to take over a district that has a C rating for one school, an overall B plus, a Chinese immersion school, a Arabic immersion school, an art and professional school, virtual arts, and as well children performing after the pandemic.

When I met with the parents at this meeting that was being held, they asked why. They were women.

Madam Speaker, I stand with them.

We will fight against the takeover, and I will listen to the women, the parents of the children of the Houston Independent School District.

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#### CALIFORNIA'S WATER CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KILEY. Madam Speaker, we have had a series of very heavy storms in California. We have gotten a lot of water, and I wanted to take a moment to talk about what is happening to that water.

This is a photo I took a few days ago at the Folsom Dam; 20,000 cubic feet is being released per second where it is sent on its way to the Pacific Ocean. That staggering amount of water is not available to California farmers, businesses, or residents.

Meanwhile, State-sponsored billboards tell people to put a bucket in their shower so they can save that water for gardening. Restaurants are prohibited from serving their customers drinking water unless the customer specifically asks for it.

Here are some of the other emergency drought restrictions that have been in effect: Turn off decorative water fountains. Use an automatic shutoff nozzle on your water hose. Use a broom, not water to clean sidewalks and driveways. Commercial, industrial, and institutional decorative grass should not be watered; same for the common areas in homeowner associations.

Down here you can see all the enforcement, all the penalties if you don't follow this. It says here, for local jurisdictions, for urban water suppliers, if needed, exercise authority to adopt more stringent local conservation measures. Some local authorities have done just that.

The Las Virgenes Municipal Water District began sending government employees into residents' homes to install flow restrictors. Once installed, you are also barred from watering anything outside, and you are not able to use two appliances needing water at once.

One resident said: "You have to take what's called a Navy Shower . . . 2 minutes. . ."

In Los Angeles, they have the water police, where municipalities pay indi-

viduals to drive around and check for leaky swimming pools, green lawns, or other signs of water use.

This is just the beginning. In 2018, the California Legislature adopted a statewide limit of 55 gallons of indoor water use per person per day; so a single person living alone can't take a shower and do a load of laundry in the same day. Yet, last year, the legislature decided even this was too generous and reduced the allotted water to 42 gallons per day.

Then, of course, there is the impact on farmers. For both 2021 and 2022, surface water deliveries dropped by 43 percent. An estimated 752,000 acres lay idle in 2022.

The general manager of the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District said: "We typically plant 100,000 acres of rice in our district. And this last year we planted 1,000 acres. It is just a massive, massive impact," he said.

As a result, \$1.7 billion in crop revenues were lost in 2022, and an estimated 19,400 jobs.

These drastic sacrifices have been required of Californians because of a supposed lack of water. We prayed for rain, and then the rain comes, and this happens.

Here is the overall impact of this image and others like it throughout the State. So far this year, October through mid-March, the net outflow, this is after pumping, from the delta into the San Francisco Bay is 11.6 million acre-feet.

Meanwhile, the State has only pumped 1.0 million acre-feet into the California Aqueduct, and the Federal Bureau of Reclamation has only pumped 826,000 acre-feet into the Delta Mendota Canal.

With this record precipitation, that means 13 percent of delta outflows have been captured. The rest is squandered.

If we were able to capture this water, we wouldn't have to worry about floods, and we wouldn't have to worry about droughts. Communities wouldn't be put at risk. Farmers wouldn't have to fallow their fields. Citizens wouldn't have to take shorter showers.

The reason we aren't capturing it isn't because this water is somehow inherently elusive. It is because there is simply no place to put it.

California has not seen a new water storage project in at least 30 years, despite many promising potential projects that have been in the planning stages since the 1950s.

In 2014, California voters said enough is enough and passed a \$7.5 billion water bond. Build water storage, the voters said. Yet, nothing has been built. In the 9 years since, no significant project has materialized. Endless litigation, mind-numbing bureaucracy and, most of all, a lack of political will have been a recipe for inaction.

The executive director of the most significant project, Sites Reservoir, said: My experience is that for every 1 year of construction, you have about 3 years of permitting.